Iqbal Chapter 1 Response

I have finished reading the first chapter in the book Iqbal. It is realistic fiction novel written by Francesco D’Adamo. In this chapter Fatima tells the story about how life is working for Hussain Khan at the carpet factory in Lahore, Pakistan. She explains what numskulls are and the debt each child have to pay by weaving carpets. She talks bout how by the time it’s lunch, no one has the energy to talk and laugh, how sad their lives were, until Iqbal arrived.

In this chapter, the author’s purpose was to introduce the reader to the life child labourers live, and how their time at the carpet factory was before Iqbal came. My purpose for reading this is because in class we are reading it as a novel study to learn about child labourers.

Some key lines worth remembering in the chapter are slate, dawn, Fatima, carpet factory, and the quote “The lines on the slate couldn’t be like the weeds in my father’s garden.” The word slate is worth remembering because in the chapter it says on the slate, lines that stood for each child’s debt were drawn. If they worked hard, each day they would be paid a rupee and a line would be erased. The word dawn is worth remembering because it is at that time that the children wake up and start to work. The word carpet factory is worth remembering because it is where the chid labourers work. A quote that is worth remembering is, “The line on the slate couldn’t be like the weeds in my father’s garden.” This quote is worth remembering because Fatima thinks the lines can’t be like the weed s in her father’s garden that keep growing and never go away, because there are always lines on her slate and sometimes it appears as if there are more. The last word worth remembering is Fatima because that is the name of the young girl telling the story.

One organizational feature that made the chapter more interesting for me to read was the similes such as, “mysterious lines, thick as trees in a forest.” pg. 4 and “these line on the slate couldn’t be like the weeds in my father’s garden” pg. 7 These similes made it more interesting to read the story and they helped me to visualize pictures of what was happening and what Fatima was comparing.

I can relate to this chapter because Fatima said she likes the sweet Laddu and I have had that sweet and I like it too. I think it is very sweet and yummy. I remember the first time I had it, it was last summer and my dad had brought it home as a treat and said that I should try it. I’m glad he made me try it because it tasted good.

A question I have after reading this chapter is, did the part about Hussain Khan coming to Fatima at night really happen? pg. 6 I was wondering this because she imagined it with so much detail that I thought it actually happened.